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Message Text

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73/44
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SCA-01 OPR-02 SSO-00 CCO-00

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15

NSCE-00 INRE-00 DODE-00 USIE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 SAM-01

DHA-02 IO-13 /077 W
---------- 052517
O R 281032Z JUL 76
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1368
USS CORONADO IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS
SECDEF
DIA
JCS
USCINCEUR
CINCNAVEUR

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BEIRUT 6672

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (ADDITIONAL ADDEES)

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, AEMR, PINT, LE
SUBJECT: BEIRUT EVACUATION JULY 27: QUESTION OF PALESTINIAN PARTICIPATION

REF: (A) BEIRUT 6653, (B) COMSIXTHFLT 271154Z, (C) USS CORONADO 272040Z, (D) BEIRUT 6652

1. AMERICAN JOURNALIST CHARLES GLASS (FROM ABC) TOLD EMBOFF LATE JULY 27 THAT HE HAD SEEN THREE PERSONS WHO HAD REGISTERED FOR U.S. BOAT DEPARTURE, WHO HAD BEEN DETAINED BY FATAH AND HAD NOT BEEN ABLE TO LEAVE. THEY ARE:
A. ALICE EL-YUSSEF, PALESTINIAN, FEMALE, WHO HAD
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BEEN REMOVED FROM BUS BEFORE ARRIVAL AT BAIN MILITAIRE. SHE HAD UK VISA, WAS GOING TO LONDON TO WORK AS NANNY FOR REUTERS JOURNALIST. SHE HAS SINCE BEEN RELEASED BY FATAH, AND HAS RETURNED TO HER FAMILY IN BEIRUT. FATAH HAS TOLD

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HER SHE SHOULD NOT LEAVE LEBANON. (EMBASSY
REGISTRATION CARD INDICATES SHE HAD LEEBANESE GOVT
LAISSEZ-PASSER. SHE ALMOST CERTAINLY WAS BORN OF
PALESTINIAN PARENTAGE IN LEBANON.)
B. SARGON AWDISHU, IRAQI STUDENT AT AUB
(EMBASSY REGISTRATION CARD INDICATES HE HAD IRAQI
PASSPORT ISSUED IN BAGHDAD). AND
C. AN EGYPTIAN, NAME UNKNOWN. (THIS MAY BE
MOHAMMED SAYED MOHAMMED--SEE REFTEL C.)
AWDISHU AND EGYPTIAN, ACCORDING TO GLASS, STILL
BEING INTERROGATED BY FATAH AS OF MIDAFTERNOON JULY 27.

2. GLASS SAID NONE RPT NONE OF THREE HAD BEEN
MISTREATED BY FATAH.

3. GLASS, WHO OBVIOUSLY EMOTIONALLY INVOLVED,
PARTICULARLY WITH CASE OF ALICE EL-YUSSEF, CLAIMED
THAT USG HAD RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE THREE. HE SAID
HE SOUGHT ASSISTANCE OF SEVERAL AMERICAN OFFICERS
DURING EVACUATION PROOCESS BUT WAS IGNORED. HE
THOUGHT THAT U.S. OFFICIALS AT DEPARTURE HAD TAKEN
IRRESPONSIBLE, NARROW-MINDED BUREAUCRATIC ATTITUDE,
AND WERE INTERESTED ONLY IN SPEEDY DEPARTURE OF BOAT.

4. EMBOFF STRESSED TO GLASS THAT USG HAD OFFEREED
BOAT DEPARTURE FOR ELIGIBLE PERSONS, BUT HAD NOT
AND COULD NOT OFFER PHYSICAL PROTECTION FOR NON-
AMERICAN CITIZENS OR DEPENDENTS WHILE STILL ON
LEBBANESE SOIL. EMBASSY HAD MADE CAREFUL PLANS
WITH LOCAL AUTHORITIES CONCERNING EVACUATION, BUT
UNCONTROLLED AND UNCONTROLLABLE ELEMENTS HAD
INTEREFERED IN WAYS THAT COULD NOT BE PREDICTED.
EMBOFF SAID THAT ALL AMERICAN OFFICIALS INVOLVED
IN EVACUATION HAD SPECIFICALLY-ASSIGNED JOBS AND
WERE GENERALLY EXTREMELY BUSY. U.S. OFFICIALS
OFFERED ALL POSSIBLE ASSISTANCE IN INDIVIDUAL CASES
UNDER CIRCUMSTANCES; HOWEVER, ELEMENTS OF BOTH
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PLO AND LEBANESE ARAB ARMY (LAA) HAD UNEXPECTEDLY
ATTEMPTED ESTABLISH CONTROLS AT BAIN MILITAIRE,
AFTER REGISTRATION PROCEDURE AT RIVIERA HOTEL HAD
BEEN AGREED UPON. IN SPECIFIC CASE OF ALICE EL-
YUSSEF, EMBOFF SAID THAT A U.S. OFFICIAL WAS AWARE
OF PROBLEM, HAD ADVISED ANOTHER U.S. OFFICIAL OF
PROBLEM AND HAD UNDERSTOOD AT THE TIME THAT SHE
HAD BEEN ALLOWED TO LEAVE (SEE REFTELS A AND B).
EMBOFF SAID THAT EMBASSYLWAS NEVERTHELESS DEEPLY
CONCERNED WITH PROBLEM AND HAD ALREADY TAKEN SSTEPS
TO IDENTIFY ANY DISCREPANCIES BETWEEN LIST OF
REGISTRANTS AT RIVIERA HOTEL AND LIST OF PERSONS

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ACTUALLY ABOARD BOAT. EMBOFF STRESSED THAT
ULTIMATELY USG HAD TO DEPEND ON COOPERATION OF
LOCAL AUTHORITIES. EMBOFF ALSO SAID THAT SPEED OF
EVACUATION PROCEDURE WAS IMPORTTANT CONSIDERATION,
SINCE DELAY IN DEPARTURE COULD JEOPARDIZE ENTIRE
OPERATION.

5. REFTEL C (JUST RECEIVED) INDICATES SIX PERSONS ON
EMBASSY LIST OF EVACUEES ARE NOT ON BOARD CORONADO.
ONE, FRENCH CITIZEN PHILIPPE LEDRU, APPARENTLY
DECIDED AT LAST MINUTE NOT TO GO; OTHER FIVE ARE THOSE
QUESTIONED BY PLO WHOM WE THOUGHT (MISTAKENLY)
HAD BEEN ALLOWED ON BOARD. EMBASSY HAS CONTACTED
MR. AND MRS. YAFAWI (BOTH PALESTINIAN-BORN) WHO WERE
PREVENTED FROM DEPARTING BY PLO AND ARE AT HOME
IN BEIRUT. EMBASSY HAS NOT BEEN ABLE TO CONTACT ALICE
EL-YUSSEF OR MOHAMMED SAYED MOHAMMED. SARGON AWDISHU
CONTACTED EMBASSY NOON JULY 28, SAID HE HAD LEARNED SOMETHING
AT BAIN MILITAIRE WHICH HAD CAUSED HIM TO CHANGE HIS MIND.
HE HAS BEEN IN TOUCH WITH IRAQI EMBASSY, BUT WAS UNWILLING
GIVE EMBASSY DETAILS. WE NOT SURE HOW TO INTERPRET HIS
ACCOUNT. WE HAVE INFORMED EGYPTIAN EMBASSY OF WHAT WE
HAVE HEARD OF MOHAMMED.

6. THIS INCIDENT POINTS UP GROWING PALESTINIAN
DETERMINATION TO ASSERT CONTROL OVER PEOPLE IT
CONSIDERS ITS NATIONALS, AN ATTITUDE THAT IS
LIKELY TO STRENGTHEN IN COMING WEEKS. PALESTINIANS
HAVE BEEN TRYING HARD TO RECRUIT NEW "VOLUNTEERS"
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FROM THROUGHOUT THE ARAB WORLD IN RECENT WEEKS
AND IS CLEARLY UNWILLING TO ALLOW ANY NOW IN
LEBANON TO DEPART. WE DO NOT KNOW WHY
MOHAMMED OR AWDISHU WERE DETAINED, SINCE ACCORDING
TO OUR INFORMATION NEITHER IS PALESTINIAN-BORN, BUT
EMBOFF WAS TOLD BY PLO OFFICER AT BAIN MILITAIRE
JULY 27 THAT PLO WOULD DETERMINE WHO IS PALESTINIAN
AND WHO IS NOT.

7. ACTION FOR EMBASSY STAFF ABOARD CORONADO: WE
WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING ASAP FINAL CONFIRMATION
OF EVACUEES ON BOARD (PARA 2, REFTEL C).

8. ACTION FOR WASHINGTON: U.S. JOURNALIST GLASS MAY
GENERATE PRESS INQUIRIES ON ALICE EL-YUSSEF AND
AWDISHU CASES. SUGGEST DEPT DRAW ON PARA FOUR ABOVE
TO RESPOND TO SUCH INQUIRIES.
HUNT

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